

NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

*RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY*

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

APRIL 27, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 22, 2004, **GEORGE F. HEGGINS**, age 56, of Carbondale, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. HEGGINS, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count Indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, was sentenced to 87 months' imprisonment, 2 years supervised release and was fined \$300.

The investigation established that from at least June 2001, through May 22, 2003, HEGGINS was involved with others in the distribution of crack cocaine in Carbondale, Illinois. On March 26, 2003, March 31, 2003, April 9, 2003, and April 28, 2003, HEGGINS sold crack cocaine to a confidential source working for law enforcement.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, and Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.